

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 06190 312003Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9340

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6190

EO 11652: GDS
TAS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, AF
SUBJ: CALL ON MINISTER OF COMMERCE GHORBANDI

REF: KABUL 3948

1. ON JULY 29, I MADE MY INITIAL CALL ON MINISTER OF
COMMERCE ABDUL QADUS GHORBANDI. WE DISCUSSED INDAMER
AND EXPANSION OF TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATE AND
AFGHANISTAN.

2. AS COMMERCE WAS THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY FOR ISSUING
THE ORDER TO CLOSE INDAMER AFGHAN INDUSTRIES, AN AMERICAN-
OWNED COMPANY, I BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT. I REPEATED
WHAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID TO THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE. WE HOPE THAT THE INDAMER
PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND EQUITABLY. THE
MINISTER RESPONDED THAT THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE COMPANY
WAS NOT BASED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, BUT RATHER ON
INDAMER'S VIOLATIONS OF AFGHAN TRADING LAW AND THE
COMPANY'S TAX DELINQUENCY.

3. DURING A GENERAL DISCUSSION ON WAYS AND MEANS
OF EXPANDING TRADE CONTACTS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN
AND THE UNITED STATES, THE MINISTER MENTIONED THE
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POSSIBILITY OF AN EXHIBITION OF AFGHAN HANDICRAFTS
IN THE U.S. I SAID THAT I WOULD LOOK INTO THIS
MATTER.

4. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS FRIENDLY. THE
MINISTER'S ENGLISH IS GOOD, THOUGH A LITTLE
HESITANT. HE DID NOT SHOW ANY DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE

REGARDING TRADE AND COMMERCE AND SEEMED MORE
COMFORTABLE DISCUSSING GENERAL TOPICS SUCH AS THE
COMMITMENT OF THE DRA TO THE WELL BEING OF THE
PEOPLE.
DUBS

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NNN

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